

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for thoroughly reviewing the application.

Claims 8 and 9 have been amended to correct typographical errors contained therein. These amendments do not change the scope of claims 8 and 9 and should not be interpreted as narrowing amendments.

Claim 1 has been amended to better point out and claim the patentable subject matter.

Incorporation of Essential Material

Applications Nos. 09/040578 and 09/699783 may issue during the pendency of this application. If, however, Applications Nos. 09/040578 and 09/699783 do not issue, Applicant will amend the specification to include the material therein, if appropriate, after allowance of the claims.

Rejection of Claims 1-3, 5, and 6 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-3, 5, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent Number 5,381,117 (Okamura). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Previously, the Applicant had argued that because the terminal identified by reference numeral 6 in Figure 19 of Okamura is grounded, the structure depicted therein does not, as a whole, exhibit an impedance to ground that is capacitor-like. The Examiner has considered the argument and found it unpersuasive. Applicants have now amended independent claim 1 to require that "current may enter or exit the conductive loop through one of two portions of the closed conductive loop, and neither of the two portions is grounded."¹

Okamura fails to disclose a closed loop "wherein current may enter or exit the conductive loop through one of two portions of the closed conductive loop, and neither of the two portions is grounded." Instead, Okamura depicts a loop structure having one of the points of entry/exit of current being grounded (i.e., terminal 6 is grounded). The grounding of terminal 6 is essential for the structure of Figure 19 to function as a resonator. Further, Okamura makes no suggestion that the structure of Figure 19 would be of any value without terminal 6 being grounded. For

¹ Applicants do not acquiesce in the previous rejection of claim 1, and Applicants explicitly reserve the right to prosecute that claim or a similar claim in the future.

this reason, the requirement that "current may enter or exit the conductive loop through one of two portions of the closed conductive loop, and neither of the two portions is grounded" is neither explicitly taught by, inherent in, or suggested by Okamura.

Okamura cannot serve as a proper basis for rejection of newly amended claim 1 under any statutory basis. For this reason, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 1, and its dependent claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

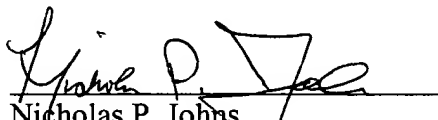
Claims 7-10 and 12-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being obvious in light of Okamura in view of either Takahashi or Schmidt. Applicant points out that these rejections rely upon the proposition that Okamura anticipates independent claim 1. As discussed above, because of the amendment of claim 1, this is not the case. For this reason, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7-10 and 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Conclusion

Claims 1-18 remain pending in the application. These claims are believed to be allowable for the reasons set forth above. This amendment is believed to be responsive to all points raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request prompt reconsideration, allowance, and passage of the application to issue. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned by telephone at the number below to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Merchant & Gould P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
612.371.5207



Nicholas P. Johns
Reg. No. 48,995